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Chairman: Mr. Butagira ..... (Uganda)

Contents

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*)*

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)*

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*)*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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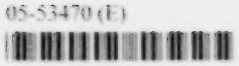

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/60/80 and 111)

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/60/61-E/2005/7, A/60/117, A/60/128, A/60/133 and Corr.1, A/60/138, A/60/155, A/60/156, A/60/290 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/60/151 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

1. **Ms. Asmady** (Indonesia) emphasized that developing countries' pursuit of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and stronger democratic systems needed international support, through such measures as new financial mechanisms.

2. The commitments entered into at the World Summit for Social Development must be implemented. To that end, Indonesia had adopted a strongly people-centred development approach, using a "triple track strategy" focusing on growth, employment and the poor. It sought to halve unemployment and poverty by 2009, and to maintain 6.6 per cent economic growth in each of the coming five years.

3. At the same time, to improve social development, Indonesia had enacted legislation to protect health and employment and provide for injury and pension coverage. Believing that the family played a crucial role in promoting and maintaining social and economic well-being, Indonesia had played an active role in the first East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families, held in Hanoi in April 2004. Its own family health assistance programme equipped rural families to cope with social change.

4. The Government viewed cooperatives as the heart of people-centred economic activity and stronger community-based economies, and therefore focused on increasing and equitably distributing skills and resources for small businesses.

5. While Indonesia acknowledged the major contribution of local and foreign volunteers to relief efforts in post-tsunami Aceh and North Sumatra, better coordination and networking among them would maximize their efforts.

6. The Government was also sensitive to the needs of older persons, having established a five-year national action plan and a National Commission on Ageing. Furthermore, in connection with the Biwako Millennium Framework for action towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, to which Indonesia was fully committed, it had launched a five-year action plan to address issues specific to disabled persons.

7. With regard to regional action, the ministers of social welfare and development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), meeting in Bangkok in December 2004, had resolved to use community- and people-centred approaches to create a community of caring societies.

8. Making Indonesia more democratic, peaceful, prosperous and just would take time and present challenges, but partnership and solidarity of the kind that had been evident in the aftermath of the tsunami would help it along that path.

9. **Mr. Pavlychko** (Ukraine) associated his delegation with the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union and said that he wished to highlight some social-development issues of specific interest to Ukraine.

10. Social inclusion, a key development challenge of our time, was the basis for social cohesion. People all over the world faced unemployment, lack of resources, discrimination and social marginalization, while falling birth rates, increasing life expectancy, early retirement and increasing labour-market exclusion threatened the foundations of prosperity. Much remained to be done. Putting people at the centre of development made economic growth a means to an end, rather than an end in itself.

11. The new Ukraine, built on the values of human dignity, freedom, justice, democracy and the rule of law, was committed to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and to internationally agreed development goals. While Governments must take

primary responsibility for social-development policies and financing social-development programmes, local, national and international cooperation played an important supporting role.

12. The Government aimed to use legislation to encourage local communities to become involved in economic activity, make them more active and self-reliant and lessen the impact of structural change on vulnerable areas. The Government's top priority was to establish a middle class and to use employment policy as the main way to combat poverty. Macroeconomic stability was the main prerequisite for social development. However, while employment remained the main strategy, action was needed in other areas: the Government was working to provide social protection for all target groups, including women, children, the elderly and disabled persons.

13. The Government was committed to efficient national and international cooperation to establish a more competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, with sustainable development and social cohesion.

14. **Ms. Laohaphan** (Thailand) explained that Thailand, having already achieved the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in poverty, had resolved to reduce that figure further to under 4 per cent by 2009 and to improve income distribution. It believed firmly that self-help and national ownership contributed to long-term sustainable development. As a middle-income country, Thailand wished to contribute to the international effort to achieve the Goals and had therefore focused its official development assistance on infrastructure, technical assistance and capacity-building in education, public health, agriculture and income-generating activities.

15. In the interests of social integration, Thailand aimed to provide equitable social protection and social welfare for all, with particular emphasis on children and youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. It had established institutional and legal frameworks to protect them and give them equal access to resources and opportunities. A five-year national plan sought to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, realize their potential and give them better access to health care, education, employment and information technology.

16. The family was the basic unit of economic revitalization and the first line of defence against social problems. Thailand supported proposals to encourage the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to incorporate the family perspective into their activities and was in favour of exchanging information, experiences and good practices regarding family policy more intensively.

17. Thailand, with its ageing society, had taken action to develop the potential of all age groups and to promote the concepts of "active ageing" and "productive ageing" so that older persons continued to contribute to society. Their needs must be taken into account in efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Efforts must continue in order to disseminate and implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

18. Although the report of the 2005 World Summit had only briefly mentioned the matters currently under discussion, Member States were aware that mainstreaming the concerns of older persons, the family and persons with disabilities into their national agendas would not neglect other groups, and that they must work towards building a society for all.

19. **Ms. García-Matos** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) expressed her delegation's deep concern that world poverty was increasing and that the financial system was worsening the situation of the poorest countries. The Millennium Development Goals were unlikely to be achieved on time. The central aim of the 2005 World Summit had been subverted, as it had shifted its focus away from the widespread problems of poverty, hunger, exclusion, malnutrition and disease towards the powerful countries' agenda of threats to international peace and security. They used those threats to justify violating other States' sovereignty and self-determination, an agenda of war and destruction rather than peace and development. As a result, Venezuela distanced itself from the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which marked a step backwards for development.

20. Venezuela had risen to the challenge of finding alternative ways of tackling social inequality and improving quality of life. It was transforming itself from a country which relied on others into one which relied on itself, encouraging a people-based economy and cooperative ventures, and establishing financial

institutions to give access to credit. Social and education campaigns and campaigns including Misión Barrio Adentro, Misión Mercal, Misión Vuelvan Caras and Misión Zamora had succeeded in improving literacy and employment rates and providing access to all stages of education, health care, food and cultivable land. Venezuela's development model must change and give communities the power to organize themselves and draw in those hitherto excluded from educational, economic and social activities.

21. **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan) said that poverty fuelled inequality, thereby representing a serious security threat. The global commitment to eradicating poverty should be sustained, not simply expressed as a response to financial emergencies or national calamities. Poverty-reduction strategies should focus on the structural causes; if they were neglected, the social and economic security of the population, particularly the disadvantaged, would not improve. His delegation endorsed the view in the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/60/80) that greater assistance must be provided, in the form of technical and financial resources and debt-relief measures, to enable countries to focus their scarce resources on social expenditure.

22. Azerbaijan had placed a people-centred approach at the heart of its new 10-year programme for poverty reduction and sustainable development. State policy promoted measures to improve social and economic welfare, encourage a stronger private sector, increase economic opportunities and job quality and provide equal access to social protection and social services. The four-year State programme for the social and economic development of the regions provided a framework for action in rural areas and, together with the national employment strategy, for job creation.

23. Refugees and internally displaced persons remained the most vulnerable section of the population. The Government continued to allocate resources to address their housing- and employment-related problems, but the high rates of unemployment and poor living standards associated with their situation remained a formidable challenge and a serious burden for a country with an economy in transition.

24. Azerbaijan, as one of the few members of Youth Employment Network, supported recommendations in the Secretary-General's repo global analysis and evaluation of national action p on youth employment (A/60/133) to the effect tha Network should be strengthened as a peer excha support and review mechanism, and in that regar emphasized the role of ILO, the World Bank and partners.

25. Every effort must be made to protect strengthen the family, which was crucial to the ov development of society, and the Organization c play a catalytic role. Governments should encouraged to contribute to the United Nations Fund on Family Activities and United Nations fu programmes and specialized agencies should encouraged to integrate a family perspective into activities and to identify a focal point on fa matters within their offices.

26. **Mr. Babadoudou** (Benin), speaking on age item 62, said that his delegation wished to focus on family, because the family encompassed the full ra of social issues and a family-based approach to so issues facilitated the harmonization and integratio sectoral policies. It was imperative that international community should embrace that appro in order to enhance social cohesion around the we The 2004 review of the progress achieved in decade since the International Year of the Fa (A/59/176) had revealed a mixed picture.

27. Recalling that, in Benin in 2004, African St had adopted a Plan of Action on the Family, he that the international community had not fully ado the family-based approach in its policies programmes, perhaps because the situation of various social groups that constituted the family not properly understood. The family — the basic of society — should be perceived as both embodiment and the catalyst of its culture. Based that perspective, the international community sho adopt the following three approaches.

28. First, it should take the lead in the formulatio an international instrument on the rights of the fam which might offer a definitive legal framew governing the various moral and ethical iss surrounding the definition of the family. Second should, as a matter of urgency, help the countries Africa to resolve the crisis afflicting their famil

which continued to suffer as the result of armed conflicts and poor governance. The family should be treated as the primary beneficiary of development in Africa and as the most active participant. In that regard, Member States might wish to be guided by the aforementioned Plan of Action. Third, the international community should gradually incorporate a family-based approach into all its social policies and programmes.

29. **Ms. Mchiela** (Malawi) said that Malawi welcomed the World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61-E/2005/7), and remained committed to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, as well as to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

30. The Government of Malawi had set up mechanisms to encourage multisectoral cooperation with a view to enhancing social development. It emphasized youth participation and involvement, and had supported the concept of the Children's Parliament since 2001, leading to increased participation by young people in decision-making. However, they faced numerous challenges to their development, including poor health, food insecurity, and the impact of HIV/AIDS.

31. Malawi had also made progress in promoting full employment as a basic priority within its economic and social policies, and had developed several programmes to address the issue. However, although it was the responsibility of Governments to address the situation, developing countries needed financial and technical support. In that regard, Malawi looked forward to the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, to be held in the plenary Assembly under item 62.

32. The HIV/AIDS pandemic had changed the fabric of society in Malawi. Older persons were being increasingly called upon to reassume their child-care duties as the pandemic took its toll on the economically productive age group. In response, the Government had set up a programme to build the capacities of older persons as caregivers. Her delegation noted the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, and urged that the work be completed as soon as possible.

33. **Mr. Hyassat** (Jordan) said that his delegation welcomed the review of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development, but hoped that it would lead to increased international cooperation aimed at ensuring the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

34. Jordan was striving to achieve those ends by developing its human resources through a broadening of education and a shift of emphasis from quantity to quality, aimed at achieving universal access to education by 2015, and targeted especially at the most vulnerable groups. A national strategy to combat poverty had reduced school dropout rates and illiteracy levels. With respect to health, Jordan attached great importance to the role of mothers and children and had worked hard to promote family planning. It was doing everything possible to create strong, healthy families, including by focusing on the role of older persons.

35. Jordan attached great importance to its youth, and the public and private sectors had combined to develop sports programmes aimed at maximizing the potential of young people and promoting group work and volunteer work. It was also trying to ensure equality between men and women and had established a number of programmes aimed specifically at young women. In that regard, Jordan welcomed the various activities being implemented for young people during the current session, including the 10-year review of the World Plan of Action for Youth.

36. With respect to persons with disabilities, Jordan welcomed the efforts to conclude a draft convention on disabilities, and hoped that a draft text would be concluded at the current session. Jordan attached great importance to ensuring that persons with disabilities retained their dignity and played an active role in society.

37. **Ms. Singh** (Nepal) recalled that the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly had reaffirmed that sustainable economic and social development was a key element of the overall framework for the activities of the Organization. However, although progress had been achieved in some areas since the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the least developed countries continued to face serious challenges.

38. Nepal urged the international community to create a favourable economic environment, promote

international trade as an engine for development, increase financial and technical cooperation, and provide external debt relief to least developed countries in order for them to achieve sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and social development.

39. The negative impact of globalization should be eliminated and market-driven reforms should take into account the special vulnerabilities of the economies of least developed countries. Furthermore, international financial institutions must enhance the coherence of global monetary, financial and trading systems. Nepal recognized the need to establish partnerships with civil society and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of development policies and programmes at the national and international levels.

40. Nepal's current five-year plan was founded on four pillars: broad-based economic growth, social development, social inclusion and good governance. The country continued to suffer from lack of infrastructure, poor governance and corruption, as well as the impact of terrorism. However, poverty had been reduced, life expectancy had increased and a number of major social indicators had improved. Nepal attached great importance to the development of young people through quality education and employment. Although the implementation of the Programme of Action for Youth was welcome, there should be a greater focus on rural youth with a view to reducing poverty and curbing the migration of rural youth to the cities.

41. Her delegation acknowledged the important role played by the United Nations Volunteers and supported the idea of commemorating the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, in 2011. It also attached great importance to the role of cooperative organizations and encouraged the participation of women and vulnerable social groups in cooperative activities across all sectors.

42. Nepal supported measures to strengthen the family as the basic unit of society in order to promote social values and protect families and children. It also attached great importance to the development of persons with disabilities and would welcome the speedy conclusion of the convention currently being drafted to that end.

43. With respect to promoting and protecting the rights of older persons, she noted that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing had facilitated efforts to mainstream ageing issues, and urged the international community to help enhance nati capacities to facilitate implementation of the Plan order to create a just, more peaceful and prospe world, the international community should address core issues of poverty eradication, full employ and social integration, by implementing Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Actio well as the Millennium Development Goals.

44. **Mr. Nguyen Tat Thanh** (Viet Nam) said that Nam was encouraged by the progress achieve social development since the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action. However, it concerned at persisting inequalities, as noted in *Report on the World Social Situation* (A/60/117/Rev.1). The challenges facing international community included the widening between developed and developing countries, inequitable international trade regime, develo countries' debt burden and the spread of de diseases.

45. Because social-development goals could no pursued independently of the economic spl supportive and coherent economic policies needed at both national and international levels. R action must be taken to implement the outcome of High-level Plenary Meeting, and national so development goals must be mainstreamed development strategies and programmes in orde maximize the use of available resources.

46. The Government's first priority was to harmo economic growth with social development, basec the principles of social progress and equity. Despite lack of resources, the budget allocation for so development continued to rise. The poverty rate been cut by more than half over the past decade, was expected to continue to fall steadily. Government had increased resources for employ generation, and was making sustained efforts promote social integration, particularly an population groups with special needs. It had also t a number of measures to encourage the participation of women in leadership and decis making.

47. Action had been taken to benefit chil including programmes in health care and educa Malnutrition and mortality rates for children under had fallen sharply. The Government had also ado

many policies for the support and care of older persons in its efforts to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the aim being to promote their potential through social insurance and protection measures.

48. Significant efforts were also made to support persons with disabilities, by providing job opportunities while also focusing on rehabilitation, social reintegration and participation. It was crucial for States to cooperate to ensure the speedy implementation of the draft convention on disabilities currently being elaborated. Despite the encouraging achievements of recent years, much remained to be done. Viet Nam was strongly committed to the achievement of social-development goals and would continue to make every effort to that end.

49. **Ms. Shaidi** (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on agenda item 61, said that her Government was determined to honour the commitments it had made at the 1995 World Summit, with particular regard to the three core issues of poverty, employment promotion and social integration. However, although it had devoted more resources to the fight against poverty, her country still lacked the resources required to reduce poverty effectively and ensure equity and equality in the delivery of social services with a view to minimizing social disparities, both within society and between rural and urban areas.

50. The Government had developed a comprehensive five-year strategy for economic growth and poverty reduction, which addressed the needs of vulnerable groups and tackled the cross-cutting issues of gender, the environment, employment and HIV/AIDS. International cooperation and financing were essential to the Government's efforts to enhance the social sector. Thanks to the support of its development partners, the Government had been able to abolish primary-school fees. As a result, the primary enrolment rate was virtually 100 per cent, and gender parity had been achieved.

51. The United Republic of Tanzania was committed to the development of people-centred policies that included older persons, women, youth and the disabled. It was currently studying the possibility of enacting legislation on social protection, which would include a social-security component. Youth unemployment constituted a particular challenge, especially since most Tanzanians lived in rural areas with limited economic opportunities. Her Government therefore welcomed the emphasis which the recent High-level Plenary Meeting had placed on rural and agricultural development as an integral part of national and international development policies. The Government was promoting decent employment as a strategy for reducing poverty in urban and rural areas, and was planning to formalize the informal sector with a view to increasing and regularizing employment opportunities and entrepreneurial initiatives. However, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis were threatening the very fabric of society by destroying the productive workforce. A collective effort was urgently needed in order to halt the spread of those diseases. Lastly, she called for the elimination of the country's debt burden so that it could use its scarce resources for social programmes.

52. **Ms. Holguín** (Colombia) said that the follow-up to major conferences and summits should be a priority. Specific tools should be designed to foster long-term, sustainable development policies to ensure the well-being of peoples in the developing countries. The assistance approach was to be avoided. Complying fully with commitments made during major conferences would contribute towards remedying inequities between countries and within countries. The United Nations had a great potential to strengthen and consolidate long-term development policies and, to ensure that, there should be broader cooperation with Member States and a strengthening of their national capacities in policymaking and social investment. That was vital at a time when the United Nations had embarked upon reforms and was debating its relevance.

53. The Government of Colombia was giving increased recognition to social investment. The recent Global Competitiveness Report, published by the World Economic Forum, had shown that Colombia had advanced the most in the global-competitiveness ranking.

54. Employment creation was a priority in both urban and rural areas. Colombia believed in a holistic approach towards employment policies, one that incorporated basic education, vocational training and entrepreneurial development. The public-employment services and presidential programmes were promoting enterprise development and providing financial support to women and young entrepreneurs. Particular attention was being paid to strengthening alternative-crop

programmes as a solution to the production of illicit drugs.

55. Education was a cornerstone of sustainable social development and the Government was investing in science and technology. She believed that the United Nations could increase its participation and cooperation in that field. Housing was another priority for which the Government had increased funding in both rural and urban areas. She called for joint efforts to revitalize the Economic and Social Council so that it would become a high-level forum for development with a capacity for analysing national strategies to serve as a benchmark for Member States.

56. **Mr. Zoumanigui** (Guinea) noted that a common vision of development had emerged from the conferences of the 1990s and 2000. Although the way forward was still fraught with obstacles, those conferences had helped to pinpoint the causes and complexities of development challenges.

57. His delegation was more convinced than ever that the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action provided the basic framework for the promotion of social development at both national and international levels. Accordingly, the Government had drafted a poverty reduction strategy in 2000 with three central goals: acceleration of economic growth, access to basic social services and improvement in governance. It involved programmes covering such areas as education, health, integrated rural development, rural water-supply systems and consolidation of institutional capacities. The second follow-up report on the Millennium Development Goals had also been prepared.

58. His country's programmes had been adversely affected by regional instability, however, thus lending credence to the maxim that there could be no development without peace and no peace without development. Thanking the bilateral and multilateral partners for their support, he called upon the international community to lend his country further support in countering the consequences of the conflicts in the subregion.

59. Progress would be contingent upon a shared responsibility between the developed and developing countries — a responsibility based on good national and international governance practices and transparency.

60. **Mr. Taranda** (Belarus) said that the declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted at the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, had recognized the need to support national efforts of developing countries, the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition. Overcoming development inequalities between countries served the common interest of improving social and economic stability and maintaining peace and security. The situation of African countries must be given priority; the international community must support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), address Africa's debt burden and increase official development assistance.

61. In Belarus, people-centred development, a key principle of the Copenhagen Declaration, provided the foundation for social and economic development strategies and programmes. Despite the difficulties of its transitional economy, Belarus considered assistance for the most vulnerable members of society to be a priority. It spent substantial sums on support for the one in five members of the population, including some 500,000 children, who had been affected by the Chernobyl disaster. It was grateful for the international, governmental and non-governmental assistance it had received in that connection. In April 2006, a conference in Minsk would mark the twentieth anniversary of the disaster, providing a forum to exchange information and best practice and develop practical steps and strategies for recovery and sustainable development in the affected areas. Belarus invited all interested parties to attend.

62. **Mr. Ngcaweni** (South Africa) noted that the core priorities of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and the World Programme of Action for Youth were mutually reinforcing in that they set out to promote social development for all, while acknowledging that sustainable development depended upon the participation of young people in the productive sectors of society.

63. The Government welcomed the recent 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth, but was disheartened to observe that youth unemployment was still widespread. It viewed youth as a resource, rather than a problem, and had created a youth unit in the Presidency to enable young people to participate in decision-making and policy formulation. It had set up various bodies such as the National Youth

Commission and the South African Youth Council. Young people in South Africa also had access to HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes, and were able to take part in job training under the national skills development strategy.

64. South Africa was proud to have progressed beyond the targets set out in the World Programme of Action for Youth and was well on the way to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the area of education. Considerable strides had also been made in terms of social integration. In cooperation with the African Union and the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), it was beginning to disseminate youth-development policies and programmes to the rest of the continent.

65. **Mr. Adekanye** (Nigeria), said that, in its attempts to achieve social development, the Government of Nigeria was concentrating on three core issues: poverty eradication, full employment and social integration. The mandate of the recently established national poverty eradication programme included the coordination of all poverty-eradication activities in the country. Legislation had been enacted at both federal and state levels to provide a framework for action.

66. Universal primary education in Nigeria had led to a dramatic increase in the enrolment of young people in vocational training schools and training centres and had boosted the education of girls.

67. Much was being done to cope with HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases under a new national strategic framework; however, a sustained international response was needed to ensure that those diseases did not thwart efforts to attain the set goals. With regard to persons with disabilities, the Government had established social-welfare departments at federal and state levels to cater for their needs.

68. As the Commission for Social Development had concluded, addressing the root causes of poverty required the participation of Governments, international organizations and civil society. The Government of Nigeria therefore welcomed NEPAD, as it was convinced that national efforts would only succeed through partnerships of that kind. International support for NEPAD must therefore be sustained and such global partnerships encouraged.

69. **Mr Husain** (Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)), speaking on item 62, acknowledged the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in particular the two programmes on youth and the family. Relations had been cordial and fruitful, despite the fact that their respective positions on the family had differed at times.

70. OIC and its member States, having played a significant role in the drafting of the World Programme of Action for Youth, was concerned that a number of planned targets had not been reached. Far too many young people and children were still living below the poverty line or were undernourished. The Programme of Action should be renewed and include five additional priority areas of support: globalization, information and communication, HIV/AIDS, armed conflicts and intergenerational relations.

71. The view that the natural family was the basic social unit of society seemed to be gaining ground and that was entirely in keeping with Islamic family values. OIC had advocated the establishment, inter alia, of national coordination mechanisms to harmonize policies and programmes on family issues, and was pleased to note that that approach had been advocated in the Secretary-General's report.

72. OIC reiterated its readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in strengthening families and family values, as it firmly believed that the family remained the God-made vehicle through which the global village of the future could develop a productive and progressive world community, as envisaged in the Millennium Development Goals.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.